

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A magnetic article having a desired shape, comprising:

a magnetic fabric wherein said magnetic fabric is further comprised of a plurality of magnetic composite fibers; each of the magnetic composite fibers comprising a polymer fiber matrix and a plurality of magnetic particles encapsulated in the polymer fiber matrix, the magnetic composite fibers being adapted to create a magnetic field; and

a plurality of stitches holding said magnetic fabric in the desired shape of the magnetic article.

2. (original) A magnetic article according to claim 1 wherein said magnetic fibers are formed from slit film fibers suitable for textile processing.

3. (currently amended) A magnetic article according to claim 1 wherein ~~said magnetic fibers are sheath-core fibers and each of said sheath-core fibers further comprises a magnetic core fiber and a textile sheath surrounding said magnetic core fiber~~ the magnetic composite fibers are arranged such that the magnetic field is concentrated at a particular location of the magnetic article.

4. (currently amended) A magnetic article according to claim 1 wherein ~~said magnetic fibers are composite fibers and each of said composite fibers further comprises magnetic particles encapsulated by a polymer~~ the magnetic composite fibers are arranged such that the magnetic field is distributed uniformly around the magnetic article.

5. (currently amended) A magnetic article according to claim 1 wherein ~~the magnetic article has an aesthetically pleasing drape and a tactile handle~~ the magnetic composite fibers are arranged such that a portion of the magnetic fabric has no magnetic properties.

6. (currently amended) A magnetic article according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of magnetic composite fibers are woven into said fabric in a pattern.

7. (original) A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising a layer of magnetic material coated onto said magnetic fabric.

8. (original) A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising a layer of magnetic material printed onto said magnetic fabric.

9. (original) A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising incorporation of magnetic material into said magnetic fabric through textile finishing techniques.

10. (original) A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising a solid magnet attached to the magnetic fabric.

11-17 (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method for making a magnetic article having a desired shape, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of magnetic composite fibers, each of the magnetic composite fibers comprising a polymer fiber matrix and a plurality of magnetic particles encapsulated in the polymer fiber matrix, ~~wherein each of said magnetic fibers has a level of magnetism;~~

forming a magnetic fabric from said plurality of magnetic composite fibers, wherein the magnetic composite fibers are adapted to create a magnetic field ~~said magnetic fabric has a magnetic field according to said magnetism of said magnetic fibers;~~ and

sewing a plurality of stitches into said magnetic fabric to hold said magnetic fabric in the desired shape of the magnetic article.

19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said forming step further comprises weaving the plurality of magnetic fibers.

20. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said forming step further comprises knitting the plurality of magnetic fibers.

21. (original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of cutting said magnetic fabric into a plurality of shapes that form at least a part of a desired shape.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of coating said magnetic fabric with a layer of magnetic material.

26. (original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of printing a layer of magnetic material onto said magnetic fabric.

27. (cancelled)

28. (original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of attaching a solid magnet to said magnetic fabric.

29. (original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of sewing a magnetic fabric layer to said magnetic fabric.

30-36. (cancelled)

37. (new) A magnetic composite fiber having a length and a longitudinal axis, the magnetic composite fiber comprising:

a plurality of magnetic fibers extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, each of the fibers being adapted to create a magnetic field; and

a fiber matrix being adapted to encapsulate the plurality of magnetic fibers.

38. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 37 wherein each of the plurality of magnetic fibers extends the length of the magnetic composite fiber.

39. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 37 wherein each of the magnetic fibers is a polymeric fiber.

40. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 39 wherein the polymeric fiber is a natural polymer.

41. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 39 wherein the polymeric fiber is a synthetic polymer.

42. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 37 wherein the fiber matrix is a natural fiber.

43. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 37 wherein the fiber matrix is a material selected from the group consisting essentially of silk, wool, mohair, cotton, hemp, flax, jute and ramie.

44. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 37 wherein each of the magnetic fibers is adapted to create a magnetic field.

45. (new) A magnetic composite fiber as set forth in claim 37 wherein the magnetic field is distributed uniformly in a direction of the longitudinal axis.